Opening of Qutab Minar for Public

1775. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to State:

(a) whether it is a fact that Qutab Minar, the heritage site, was to be opened for the public in July this year;

(b) if so, whether the monument has since been opened for public;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when it is likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (d) A decision has been taken to open the first floor of Qutab Minar to public by the end of Sept, after completing the repair works now in progress and after making requisite security arrangements.

Joint Tourism Project for A.P., Kerala and Rajasthan

1776. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to State:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate a joint tourism project for travel along Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Rajasthan to attract foreign and domestic tourists;

(b) whether the connectivity by rail and air is proposed to attract tourist in those States; and

(c) the other measures taken to attract more foreign tourists?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) No such proposal is under consideration in the Department of Tourism of Government of India.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) the Department of Tourism has formulated following short-term and long-term strategy to attract foreign tourists:—

> position India as a global brand;

> position India as an attractive destination in overseas markets through targeted publicity and promotion campaign;

> use information technology in marketing;

> participate in selected trade and consumer travel marts in potential markets;

> stage road shows in overseas markets to create awareness about tourism potential of India;

> create and develop integrated tourism circuits based on India's unique civilization, heritage and culture;

> ensure that the tourist to India gets physically invigorated, mentally rejuvenated, culturally enriched-spiritually elevated and feel India from within.

Expenditure on flood and erosion control in the North-East

1777. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to State:

(a) the deails of expenditure made out of the Rs. 500 crore granted towards flood and erosion control measures in the North-East under P.M.'s special package 1996;

(b) the present status of the master plan prepared by Brahmaputra Board for erosion/protection of Majuli Island in Assam;

(c) whether Central Water Commission (CWC) has cleared the plan; and

(d) if not, the reasons for delay and target set to complete the process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) The status of implementation of various programmes/economic packages in respect of releases made out of the Rs. 500.00 crore granted towards flood and erosion control measures in North-East under Prime Minister's special package 1996 given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below).

(b) The Brahmaputra Board had approved a Master Plan for Majuli Island which *inter-alia*, envisaged anti erosion measures to protect the island from severe erosion. Accordingly the Board had prepared a project report costing Rs. 192.25 crore which was examined in Central Water Commission (CWC). This report was subsequently modified and revised